UNITED
NATIONS

CRC

Convention on the
Rights of the Child

Distr.
GENERAL

CRC/C/SR.314
14 June 1996

ENGLISH
Original: FRENCH

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Twelfth session

SUMMARY RECORD (PARTIAL)* OF THE SECOND PART (PUBLIC)
OF THE 314th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 7 June 1996, at 11 a.m.

Chairperson: Mrs. SARDENBERG

CONTENTS

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF STATES PARTIES (continued)

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

* No summary record was prepared for the first part (closed) of the meeting.

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.4108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Any corrections to the records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

GE.96-16632 (E)

The public part of the meeting was called to order at noon

CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS OF STATES PARTIES (agenda item 4) (continued)

1. The CHAIRPERSON invited the Committee to adopt concluding observations with respect to the initial reports it had considered at its twelfth session.

Initial report of Lebanon (CRC/C/8/Add.23)

2. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS (Rapporteur) introduced the draft concluding observations of the Committee on the initial report of Lebanon (future CRC/C/15/Add.54).

3. The concluding observations on the initial report of Lebanon were adopted.

Initial report of Zimbabwe (CRC/C/3/Add.35)

4. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS (Rapporteur) introduced the draft concluding observations on the initial report of Zimbabwe (future CRC/C/15/Add.55).

5. The concluding observations on the initial report of Zimbabwe were adopted.

Initial report of China (CRC/C/11/Add.7)

6. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS (Rapporteur) introduced the draft concluding observations of the Committee on the initial report of China (future CRC/C/15/Add.56).

7. The concluding observations on the initial report of China were adopted.

Initial report of Nepal (CRC/C/3/Add.34)

8. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS (Rapporteur) introduced the draft concluding observations of the Committee on the initial report of Nepal (future CRC/C/15/Add.57).

9. The concluding observations on the initial report of Nepal were adopted.

Initial report of Guatemala (CRC/C/3/Add.33)

10. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS (Rapporteur) introduced the draft concluding observations of the Committee on the initial report of Guatemala (future CRC/C/15/Add.58).

11. The concluding observations on the initial report of Guatemala were adopted.

Initial report of Cyprus (CRC/C/8/Add.24)

12. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS (Rapporteur) introduced the draft concluding observations of the Committee on the initial report of Cyprus (future CRC/C/15/Add.59).

13. The concluding observations on the initial report of Cyprus were adopted.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION (CRC/C/54)

14. Mrs. SANTOS PAIS (Rapporteur) introduced the draft report of the Committee on its twelfth session (CRC/C/54) and briefly reviewed the main chapters. There were currently 187 States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Committee had already examined 56 reports out of 85 received. Furthermore, Denmark, Sweden and Spain had transmitted information concerning the effect given to the recommendations adopted by the Committee.

15. With regard to cooperation with other organizations, Mrs. Sardenberg was to take part in the Habitat II Conference and Mrs. Eufemio in an informal ILO meeting on child labour. Efforts were under way in cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights and UNICEF, to computerize operations.

16. The CHAIRPERSON said that, if there was no objection, she would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the draft report on its twelfth session.

17. It was so agreed.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

18. The CHAIRPERSON declared the twelfth session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child closed.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

CRC

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Distr.
GENERAL

CRC/C/SR.315
25 September 1996

Original: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Thirteenth session

SUMMARY RECORD (PARTIAL)* OF THE 315th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Monday, 23 September 1996, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mrs. BELEMBAOGO

CONTENTS

OPENING OF THE SESSION

STATEMENT BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

SUBMISSION OF REPORTS BY STATES PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONVENTION

---

* No summary record was prepared for the rest of the meeting.

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Official Records Editing Section, room E.4108, Palais des Nations, Geneva.

Any corrections to the records of the public meetings of the Committee at this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

GE.96-18259 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

OPENING OF THE SESSION

1. The CHAIRPERSON declared the thirteenth session of the Committee open.

STATEMENT BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

2. Mr. AYALA LASSO (High Commissioner for Human Rights) said that he attached high priority to the promotion and protection of the rights of the child and assured the Committee of his support for the plan of action to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The plan had been revised on the basis of the Committee's suggestions and he looked forward to the establishment of the team that would be responsible for implementing it.

3. The United Nations was facing a serious financial and budget crisis whose effects on the Secretariat's activities included a freeze on recruitment and the elimination of posts and other resources in all departments. Human rights programmes had consequently been cut by a further $2,700,000 for the biennium, over and above the reductions adopted by the General Assembly in December 1995. Efforts were nevertheless being made to improve the effectiveness of those programmes.

4. The Centre for Human Rights continued to ensure the effective follow-up of the Committee's recommendations. After an advisory services mission to Viet Nam, a mission had been sent to the Philippines to plan assistance for the administration of juvenile justice. The database on the rights of the child had been updated and opportunities for broader access were being explored. The establishment of the database was part of the computerization plan taking place within the context of the restructuring of the human rights programme. In that connection, all support services for the human rights treaty monitoring bodies would be provided by Management Unit II. One of the main goals of the restructuring was to ensure increased transparency and cooperation between the different sectors of the Centre, as well as greater efficiency in the use of staff and resources. As work packages were currently under discussion, now would be a good time for the Committee to make comments and suggestions.

5. The restructuring had been the result of almost two years of analysis and discussion on the basis of proposals by various committees, special rapporteurs, members of the Sub-Commission, staff members, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Governments. The entire restructuring process, which had benefited from broad participation at all levels, would affect the Secretariat, but would not reduce support for the human rights treaty bodies.

6. The Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), the forty-eighth session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the first World Congress on the commercial sexual exploitation of children and the seventh Meeting of Chairpersons of Human Rights Treaty Bodies had taken place since the Committee's last session. They had held comprehensive discussions and adopted resolutions promoting the recognition and protection of human rights in general and the rights of women

and children in particular. Consultations with the World Bank had also stressed the need for closer cooperation and improved exchanges of information between the financial institutions and human rights bodies of the United Nations system. He invited the Committee to participate in a round-table meeting on women's health and reproductive rights which was being organized by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities in collaboration with the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Centre for Human Rights and was to be held in early December 1996.

7. The final report on the study on the impact on children of armed conflicts would be submitted to the Third Committee at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly. That report, which had been prepared at the Committee's request, represented a masterful synthesis of the principles embodied in the Convention.

8. The Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had also held their fifty-seventh and forty-ninth sessions, respectively, since the Committee's last session. Some of the reports that they had considered dealt with countries in which the Committee would also be taking an interest at the current session, namely, Nigeria and Mauritius. The Human Rights Committee had adopted a general comment on article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (right to take part in the conduct of public affairs). The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination had adopted a general recommendation concerning the rights of refugees and persons displaced on the basis of ethnic criteria, as well as resolutions and decisions on Burundi, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia and Cyprus as part of its early warning and emergency procedures.

9. Ms. SARDENBERG said that she was heartened by the commitment by the Centre for Human Rights to ensure that the activities of the treaty monitoring bodies continued despite the United Nations financial and budget crisis. She was confident that the Committee would submit proposals aimed at strengthening its own activities on the basis of the plan of action. It was also a welcome trend that the High Commissioner for Human Rights had held consultations with the World Bank.

10. Mr. KOLOSOV said the efforts being made by the Centre for Human Rights to enable the human rights treaty bodies to continue to carry out their activities were particularly encouraging. He was, however, concerned by the fact that awareness of the Convention was still insufficient, even in developed countries. There was a real need for the Committee to deal with individual communications in order to promote respect for the rights of children. He therefore proposed that, pending the adoption and entry into force of an optional protocol, individual communications might be handled by the Centre for Human Rights.

11. He invited the High Commissioner to attend the general discussion on "The child and the media" to be held on 7 October 1996.

12. The CHAIRPERSON said the Committee was, of course, prepared to take part in the process of the restructuring of the Centre for Human Rights in order to ensure that the measures adopted would guarantee the achievement of the

objectives set. To that end, she suggested that, at the current session, the Committee might discuss the final version of the plan of action and the restructuring process with representatives of the Centre.

13. Referring to the concern Mr. Kolosov had expressed and the fact that the Convention did not authorize the Committee to deal with individual communications, she said that every case deserved close attention and the Committee believed that the initiatives it had taken were limited and not likely to achieve reliable results. It would therefore continue to consider the problem and would make some specific suggestions with a view to solving it. In that connection, the Committee's general discussion on "The child and the media" would help to highlight issues involving children, but the press should not limit treatment of that question to its commercial aspects and should assume a more active and didactic role in the dissemination of information on the Convention.

14. Lastly, she expressed appreciation for the consultations that had been held by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the World Bank.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

15. The CHAIRPERSON reminded the Committee that it was to consider the initial reports of Morocco, Nigeria, Uruguay, United Kingdom (Hong Kong), Mauritius and Slovenia at the current session. The reports would be examined in public session, but a number of closed meetings would also be held to formulate the Committee's concluding observations on them, as well as to review various aspects of its methods of work, including the guidelines for the preparation of periodic reports. Two public meetings would be set aside on Monday, 7 October 1996, for the general discussion on "The child and the media".

16. The agenda was adopted.

ORGANIZATIONAL AND OTHER MATTERS

17. The CHAIRPERSON said that the actual number of closed meetings held would depend on the progress of work. She noted that, according to the tentative schedule, the afternoon meeting of Wednesday, 25 September, would begin in public session with a review of developments, including accounts of their experiences by members of the Committee who had taken part recently in other international meetings with a bearing on the rights of the child, to be followed by an exchange of views in which representatives of the specialized agencies and relevant NGOs would be invited to take part. The Committee would then go into closed session to discuss with Mrs. Klein of the Centre for Human Rights the revised plan of action and the proposals for the Centre's restructuring. She took it that the Committee agreed with the procedure suggested.

18. It was so decided.

SUBMISSION OF REPORTS BY STATES PARTIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 44 OF THE CONVENTION

19. Ms. RAADI-AZARAKCHI (Secretary of the Committee) said that a further eight initial reports had been received since the Committee's twelfth session and the preparation of the note by the Secretary-General on the status of the submission of reports (CRC/C/56). In the order in which they had been received, the reports were those of Ecuador, Fiji, Hungary, Luxembourg, Iraq, Thailand, Kuwait and Barbados. A total of 95 initial reports had been received so far, two of which were to be resubmitted after revision. To date, the Committee had considered 56 initial reports.

20. The CHAIRPERSON said that the consideration of reports of States parties would begin on Tuesday, 24 September. She would suspend the public meeting forthwith and the Committee would continue in closed session with a discussion of methods of work.

The meeting was suspended at 11.50 a.m.